

MINUTES

OF

CONVERSATIONS

BETWEEN

Preachers and Delegates,

Late in Connexion with

THE REV. MR. WESLEY,

HELD IN

MANCHESTER,

On the 2d, &c. of JUNE, 1800.

LEEDS:

PRINTED BY E. BAINES;

AND SOLD BY T. HANNAM, AND ALL THE PREACHERS IN THE
NEW ITINERANCY.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]



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MINUTES;

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ACCORDING to the appointment of the Conference held at Nottingham last year, the Preachers and Delegates assembled at Manchester, and after prayer proceeded to business.

1. *Quest.* Who compose the present Conference?

Ans. Newcastle, E. Oakes, J. Aynsley.—Leeds, W. Brown, R. Oastler.—Huddersfield, A. Cummin, T. Vickerman.—Manchester, T. Shore, S. Heginbottom.—Hanley, W. Haslam, J. Ridgway.—Liverpool, W. Styan, S. Francis.—Chester, J. Mallison, J. Parry.—Sheffield, J. Mort, T. Hayward.—Hull, S. Eversfield, J. Smith.—Nottingham, W. Thom, R. Hall.—Bolton, J. Revil, T. Ramsden.—Blackburn, J. Hurst, E. Sharrocks.—London, J. Grundell.—Birmingham, J. Brooks, T. Davis.—Macclesfield, G. Matthewson, J. Cash.—Lisburn, G. Beaumont.

2. *Q.* Who remain on trial?

A. J. Mort, J. Mallinson, J. Revil, W. Brown, W. Haslam, W. Styan. *All these have travelled three years.*

S. Smith, W. Driver, C. Donald, W. Farmer, E. Oakes, J. Winstanly, J. McClure. *All these have travelled two years.*

T. Shore, G. Beaumont, G. Hendly, P. Roby, J. Hurst, G. Wall. J. Brooks, P. Collins. The two last were called out by the Committee. *All these have travelled one year.*

3. *Q.* Who are now admitted on trial?

A. J. Heaps.

4. *Q.* Who have desisted from travelling?

A. J. Hewitt, G. Matthewson, R. Bridge.

5. *Q.* Are there any objections to the characters, of the travelling Preachers?

A. By the certificates received from the quarterly Meetings, it appeared that they were all thought proper to be continued in the work.

6. *Q.* How are the Preachers stationed this year?

A. Newcastle, E. Oakes, G. Wall.

Leeds, W. Styan, J. Brooks.

Muddersfield, J. Winstanley, G. Beaumont.

Halifax, W. Brown.

Manchester, S. Eversfield, A. Cummin, G. Taylor.

Hanley, J. Mallinson, P. Roby.

Liverpool, J. Grundell, W. Farmer.

Chester, T. Shore, J. Hurst.

Bolton, J. Jones.

Blackburn, J. Heaps.

Wigan, A. Preacher

to be sent by the Committee.

These three shall change once a fortnight or every three weeks as may be thought best; and to be under the general direction of the superintendent of the Manchester Circuit.

Nottingham, W. Thom. W. Haslam, C. Donald.

Leicester,

Birmingham,

A Preacher for each to be sent by the Committee, and to be under the general direction of the superintendent of Nottingham.

Hull, J. Mort, G. Hendley.

Sheffield, W. Driver, S. Smith.

Lisburn, J. Mc. Clure, P. Collins.

London, a Preacher to be sent by the Committee.

7. Q. What shall be done to prevent the Preachers, who are not delegated, from leaving their circuits in the time of Conference and coming to the place where the Conference is held?

A. Let all such be sent for by the Conference and interrogated as to the cause of their absence from the circuits.

8. Q. Shall any member of the Conference be allowed to appoint another person to act for him?

A. After the Conference is formed, no member of it shall be suffered to chuse another person to act for him except in the case of illness or extraordinary business, of which the Conference shall judge.

9. Q. Who shall be considered as the representatives of the societies at the quarterly meetings?

A. The representatives of the societies at the quarterly meetings shall be appointed by the Leaders' meeting, but where there is no Leader's meeting, the society shall appoint.

10. Q. Shall any of the circuits which are at a distance from the place where the Conference is held, be excused from sending Delegates on account of the expence.

A. When there are two or more Preachers in a circuit, a Delegate and a Preacher shall be sent if the circuit can afford it, but if it can afford to send only one representative it shall be a Preacher and a Delegate alternatively every year, notwithstanding it shall have the privilege of sending two representatives again whenever it can bear the expence.

In those circuits where there is one Preacher only, there shall be but one representative, a Preacher and a Delegate alternately as before mentioned. In all cases where a circuit cannot afford to send a representative a letter shall be deemed sufficient, nevertheless the right of sending representatives is still reserved, and the circuit may send them whenever it can bear the expence.

11. Q. Who are to be considered as members of our societies?

A. Only those who meet in class.

12. Q. What rule shall be adopted respecting the attendance of a Leader at the Leaders' meeting?

A. If any Leader shall neglect to attend the Leaders' Meeting three times successively, without satisfactory reasons, he shall be changed, and his assistant put into his place.

13. Q. What rule is to be observed respecting the town Stewards?

A. One of them shall not be a Leader, if a proper person can be found.

14. Q. What is the duty of a superintendent?

A. He shall take care that all the rules of the Connexion be carried into execution, as he must be accountable to the Conference.

15. Q. What shall be done with respect to the change of Preachers in the interval of Conference?

A. Where there are two Preachers in a circuit, there shall be no change with other Preachers until the Conference, except by the mutual consent of their circuits. And no Preacher shall leave his circuit on any pretence whatever to bring any expence on the Conference.

16. Q. What can be done to prevent expence by the division of Circuits?

A. In case the division of a Circuit be deemed necessary, the opinion of the quarterly meeting shall be sent to the Conference, that the brethren may determine on the propriety of it.

17. Q. Are any other regulation wanting respecting the Circuits.

A. Yes, 1st. A book shall be kept in every Circuit, in which the superintendent shall enter the names of all the members of the societies every year, prior to Conference.—2d. If any Circuit recommend a Preacher in their yearly certificate, and some well founded objections to his character come from any other part of the Connexion in the same year, the Conference shall station him another year in that Circuit which recommended him.

18. Q. When shall the yearly collection be made?

A. It shall be proposed to the classes at the October visitation, and paid at the January quarterly meeting.—A public collection also shall be made sometime before the Conference, for the education of the Preacher's children.

19. **Q.** What is the judgment of Conference concerning the annual Committee?

A. The report of their business has been received, and the brethren think that they have acted as prudently as circumstances would admit.

20. **Q.** How shall the Annual Committee, and the Committee for stationing the Preachers be chosen?

A. By ballot.

21. **Q.** Who compose the Annual Committee this year?

A. S. Eversfield, W. Thom, R. Hall.

22. **Q.** Who act as Stewards for the Connexion this year?

A. R. Hall, Steward and Treasurer, W. Thom, Steward and corresponding member.

N. B. All letters to the annual Committee, and corresponding member must be post paid.

* * The Annual Committee shall not bring out any Preacher to travel whose circumstances may be such as to bring any expence on the Conference or that the Circuit to which he is going cannot pay.

23. **Q.** What can be allowed to G. Beaumont's mother according to the agreement made with him at the Sheffield Conference?

A. 12*l.* per ann. so long as he continues unmarried.

24. **Q.** What shall be done to prevent the Preachers on trial from taking improper steps with respect to marriage?

A. No Preacher on trial shall marry without the consent of Conference.

25. **Q.** In what manner shall a Preacher's case who is proposed to travel, be considered by the regular meetings of the Circuit?

A. Let them inquire into his piety, ministerial abilities, and situation in life, and send a certificate of them to the Annual Committee, or to the Conference: The certificate of every meeting should be signed by the superintendent, and general Steward of the Circuit.

26. **Q.** What is the difference between a Preacher in full connexion, and a Preacher on trial?

A. A Preacher in full connexion is approved with respect to his ministerial abilities, and cannot be rejected afterwards for any supposed deficiency; but his piety, and diligence in the work of the Ministry, shall be subject to an annual examina-

tion, and the usual certificate on that head shall be sent to Conference.

Agreed, that the rule made at the Sheffield Conference respecting Preachers in full connexion shall stand; namely that every Preacher who shall have travelled four years, or continued that space of time in the Ministry in any other way shall be considered as such.

27. Q. How can the members of our Societies be prevented from going to law?

A. When any difference happens between two of the members of our Societies, let them chuse two arbitrators, who shall hear evidence and settle the business; but if they cannot agree on any particular point they shall call in an umpire whose decision shall be final. If any part of the business should happen to depend on a question in law, the arbitrators shall have liberty to call in the advice of counsel.

* * The member who will not submit to this rule must be expelled.

28. Q. Can any thing be done to aid the circulation of the Books?

A. Let a catalogue of them be printed and put up at all the Chapels, and let every Preacher publish them from the pulpit.

29. Q. What Chapels have been opened in our Connexion this year?

A. Twelve. At the following places: Leicester; Otley; Hull; Liverpool, two; Manchester; Ashton-under-line; Maplewell; Wigan; Newcastle-under-line; Ellsemere; and Lane-Delph.

30. Q. What are the numbers in Society?

A. Newcastle Circuit,	-	-	345
Leeds, Do.	-	-	477
Huddersfield, Do.	-	-	810
Manchester, Do.	-	-	895
Hanley, Do.	-	-	380
Liverpool, Do.	-	-	240
Chester, Do.	-	-	164
Bolton, Do.	-	-	210
Blackburn, Do.	-	-	48
* Nottingham, Do.	-	-	840
Birmingham, Do	-	-	30

Carried over

4439

* There must have been a great mistake in taking the numbers last year, for more than 130 have been added this year.

<i>Brought over</i>				4439
Hull, Do.	-	-		106
Sheffield, Do.	-	-		799
Macclesfield, Do.	-	-		82
London, Do.	-	-		33
Lisburn (Ireland), Do.	-	-		335

Total, - 5794

31. Q. What is contributed by the Circuits toward defraying extra expences?

	£.	s.	d.
A. Newcastle,	14	6	2
Leeds,	15	16	2
Do. (a Friend,)	1	1	0
Huddersfield,	19	5	6
Manchester,	20	0	0
Hanley,	10	6	3
Liverpool,	11	2	2
Chester,	6	12	0
Nottingham,	25	5	0
Hull,	10	14	0
Sheffield,	13	4	1
Bolton,	4	4	0
Birmingham,	0	18	0
Stockton, (a Friend)	2	0	0
Balance from last year,	3	10	5
Deficient,	100	10	10
	£.	258	16 4

32. Q. What is allowed for deficiencies in the Circuits?

	£.	s.	d.
A. Nottingham,	20	0	0
Lisburn, delegate expences.	2	12	6
Huddersfield,	30	14	0
Manchester,	13	3	0
Chester,	11	3	0
Bolton,	14	0	0
Birmingham,	30	6	0
Macclesfield,	3	14	0
*Hanley,	15	0	0
*London,	28	16	0
Late Mr. Kilham expences,	2	10	0
J. Brooks expence of Travelling and Letters,	1	1	5
G. Matthewson,	11	8	0
R. Bridge, Quarters, &c. 7l. 8s. 8d. do. expences, 9l. 16s. 6d. Allowed 5l. 5s. 22 40 2			
G Beaumont's Mother,	12	0	0
Mr. Eversfield (lost by Sale of a Horse.)	3	18	6
Mr. Jones Lodgings, Coals, &c.	15	3	0
*Arnald Chapel,	9	10	0
Expences of Calling out P. Collins	4	10	0
Expences of Annual Committee,	4	4	3
Mr. Dickinson, for supplying a Circuit,	2	12	6
	£.	258	16 4

* These will be paid as soon as the remainder of the collections of August 20th, are all sent in.

33. 2. How shall the deficiencies be made up ?

A. Let a collection be made by all the Circuits in the following proportion, and sent to Mr. Higinbottom, Merchant at Manchester, by the 20th of August.

	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
*Newcastle,	6 9 0	Deficiency,	100 10 10
Leeds,	8 19 0	Balance,	• 3 2
Huddersfield,	15 3 6		
Manchester,	16 15 6		
*Hanley,	7 2 6		
Liverpool,	4 10 0		
Chester,	3 1 6		
Nottingham,	15 15 0		
Hull,	2 0 0		
*Sheffield,	15 0 0		
Bolton,	3 19 0		
*Blackburn,	0 18 0		
A Friend in Leeds, (A gift.)	1 1 0		
	<u>£. 100 14 0</u>		<u>£. 100 14 0</u>

34. 2. When and where shall our next Conference meet ?

A. At Leeds on Whitsun Monday, May 25th, 1801.

* Not paid in, as the Delegates of these Circuits left the Conference before the accounts were closed.

General Account of the Book-Room, April, 30th, 1800, the Particulars of which were laid before the Book Committee at the Conference.

Dr.	£. s. d.	Contra.	£. s. d.
To Sundry Persons for		By Stock in Book-	
Paper, Printing, &c.	460 11 4	Room,	530 17 2
To Cash on Interest,	213 10 0	By do. in the Circuits,	86 15 10
To Balance.	197 10 2	By Money owing,	249 19 0
		By do. in hand.	3 19 6
	<u>£. 871 11 6</u>		<u>£. 871 11 6</u>

Address to the Connexion.

DEAR BRETHREN,

WHEN we take a retrospective view of the affairs of the Connexion, for the last year, we feel our minds deeply impressed with a grateful sense of the divine blessing which has enabled us to proceed in the establishment of a rational and scripture plan of church government.

By this plan the people chuse the Leaders, the Leaders nominate the Stewards; and if the Societies approve, they confirm the nomination. But what perfects, and fixes our gospel liberty, is, the principle of delegation; on this principle, every Circuit can represent in Conference the spiritual state of the people by the Preacher, who has laboured among them the preceeding year, and the Delegate chosen from among the people at the last quarterly meeting, is always furnished with information and power to transact the temporal business.

This union of the Preachers and people in making and enforcing their own laws, is the hinge, on which the door of religious liberty moves; destroy this, and the door is shut at once. Blessed be God we have no majorities of Trustees, Leaders, and Stewards to obtain, before we can have the ordinances of the gospel introduced into our chapels; No! We glory in our liberty of calling no man father upon the earth, and value ourselves on an attachment to that supremacy which is vested in our Saviour, in the sacred concerns of his kingdom. Thus we have been directed by the model of the apostolic age to introduce that order, in which, the people sat in council, voted in the election of church officers; and gave their suffrage in spiritual matters.

But, dear Brethren, notwithstanding the enjoyment of these privileges, we might adopt the words of the prophet and say that we had "spent our money for that which is not bread, and our labour for that which satisfieth not," unless we could also add, that care has been taken to establish a lively and experimental ministry in the Connexion. A ministry that may open the eyes of the blind, alarm the fears of the guilty,

rouse the slumbering conscience, and bring sinners to the knowledge of God. And the Conference earnestly requests the regular meetings to attend to the minute made this year respecting the manner of calling out Preachers, and also to be punctual in giving the yearly certificate, that those ministers who are approved may be known, and counted worthy of double honour.

Several excellent rules have been recommended by the quarterly meetings, among which we reckon the rule that establishes a mode of setting all differences which may arise in the Connexion by arbitration, instead of going to law,—and those which explain the offences for which a member of Society should be reprov'd, censured, and expelled. And as we wish your perfection in knowledge and grace, we have thought proper to make a declaration of those blessed doctrines, which we believe to be essential to salvation, the fall of man, redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ. Justification by faith, the compleat sanctification of believers, and the necessity of continuing in faith and good works to the end, in order to final salvation. This declaration, together with the manner of proceeding in church censures, will be printed with the rules of our Societies, which the Conference has ordered the corresponding member to prepare for the press.

To conclude, we hope that all the members of our Societies will be conscientious in the relative duties of life, and walk as the psalmist expresses it with a perfect heart at home. That they will be diligent in meeting the class, hearing the word of the Lord, and waiting upon him in the house of prayer. Nothing can be done in the work of the Lord without divine influences, therefore, look for, and constantly expect those gracious assistances from him which he has promised in his word. Read a portion of the holy scriptures every day ; meditate on the promises of future glory, till you feel the fire kindle in your hearts, and make the precepts a light, to direct your steps, and a lamp to point out your path to the kingdom of God.

Thus you will be preserved from dead formality on the one hand, so displeasing in the church Lodiacea, and from wild unmeaning rant on the other so reproachful to the religion of Christ. Pray for the prosperity of Zion, that her sons and her daughters may be glorious within, and blameless without, walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comforts of the Hol

Ghost. Live like fellow members of that body whereof Christ is the Head ; bear one another's burthens, supply one another's wants, cover one another's faults, exhort each other daily, and persevere in well-doing to the end. *May the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like minded one towards another, according to Christ Jesus : That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Signed in behalf of the Conference,

S. EVERSFIELD, President.

Manchester, June 10th, 1800.

R. HALL, Secretary.

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